



MILLENNIUM™ WEEK 4

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BY JOHN BYRNE
WITH KEITH WILLIAMS

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SUPERMAN--

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DEAD!





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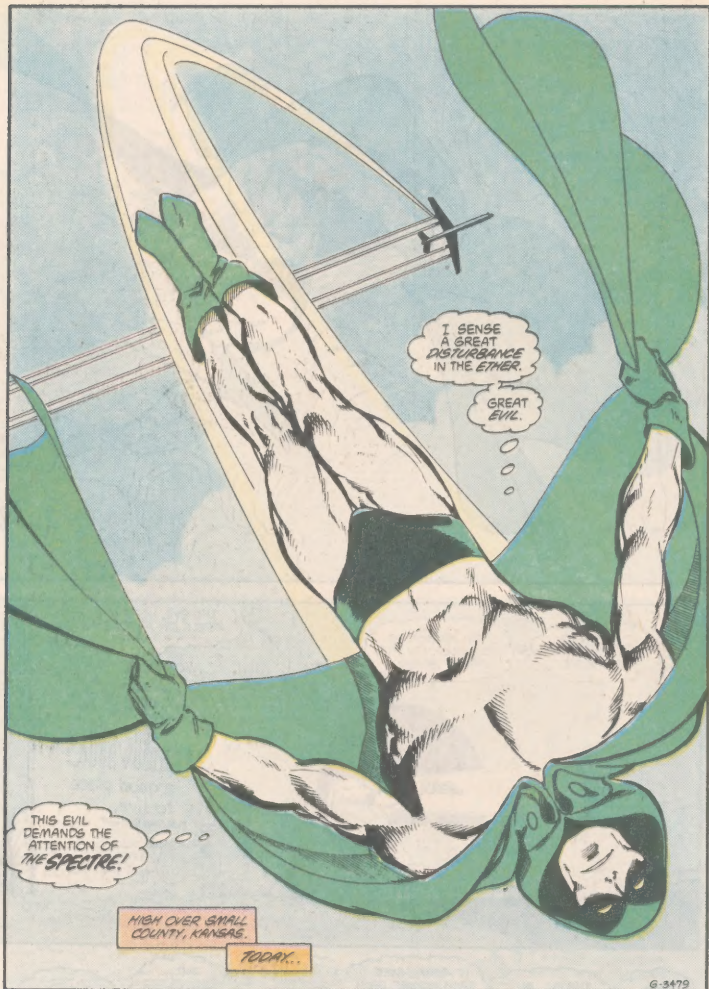
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THERE! THE SOURCE OF THE DISTURBANCE IS THAT SMALL TOWN.

YET...

IT SEEMS
PERFECTLY *NORMAL*...
PERFECTLY
PEACEFUL.

HELL IS WHERE
THE HEART IS...

story & pencils:
JOHN BYRNE

JOHN BYRNE ^{illustrations} and KEITH WILLIAMS
lettering coloring
JOHN COSTANZA TOM ZIUKO
editing MICHAEL CARLIN

WAIT!

I BEGIN TO
SEE NOW WHAT
IS AMISS.

I AM FOCUSING
TOO MUCH ON THE
SPIRIT PLANE.

THE EVIL HERE MANIFESTS
ITSELF ON A MORE PHYSICAL
LEVEL.

*Welcome to
Smallville
"...a good place
to live..."*

POP. Richard B. Small, Mayor

3753

1875



AND...

YES OLDER } OLD

STILL THAN OLD THAN

STILL THAN
EVEN THAT

EVEN THAT.

~~~~~

THERE ARE  
NO PEOPLE!

THE TOWN  
LIES DESERTED!

OLDER  
THAN LIFE  
ON THIS  
PLANET!

**SUPERMAN**  
Created by JERRY  
SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

**SPECTRE**  
Created by  
JERRY SIEGEL, TOO!!



"TEN BILLION YEARS AGO, WHEN THIS PROUD PLANET WAS NAUGHT BUT SWIRLING GAS AND DUST..."

"A BEING KNOWN AS KRONA UNLEASHED FORCES OF GREAT EVIL INTO THE UNSUSPECTING UNIVERSE."

"IN PART TO APOLOGE FOR HIS ACT, HIS FELLOW GARRS SET UP THEMSELVES AS THE GUARDIANS OF THE UNIVERSE."

"IT IS THESE SELFSAME GUARDIANS WHO ONCE COMMANDED THE MYRIAD LEGIONS OF THE GREEN LANTERN GARRS."



"BUT BEFORE THE GARRS, THE GUARDIANS CREATED A VAST ARMY OF ROBOT AGENTS, KNOWN FAR AND WIDE AS MANHUNTERS."

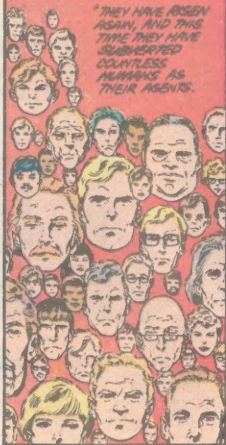
"THROUGH TIME, THE MANHUNTERS EVENTUALLY TURNED AGAINST THEIR MASTERS."

"ONLY AFTER A GREAT BATTLE WERE THEY ULTIMATELY DEFEATED."



"BUT NOW IT SEEMS THAT DEFEAT WAS ONLY A TEMPORARY SET-BACK IN THE MANHUNTERS' SCHEME OF TOTAL CONTROL AND DESTRUCTION OF LIFE."

"THEY HAVE AROSEN AGAIN, AND THIS TIME THEY HAVE SUBVERTED COUNTLESS HUMANS AS THEIR AGENTS."



CONTINUED ON 39E PAGE FOLLOWING

# JOIN THE **TANG SOCCER TEAM**

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OF THE TANG SOCCER  
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**POW!**



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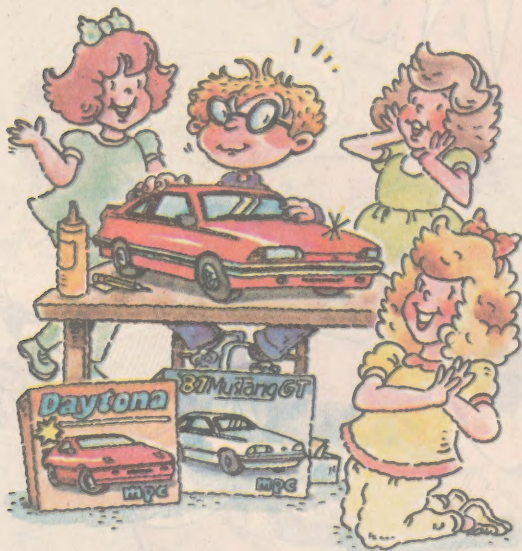
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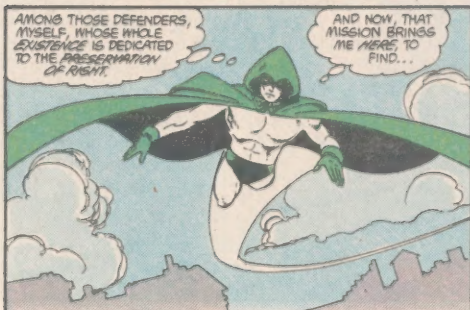
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CRASHED  
HERE.

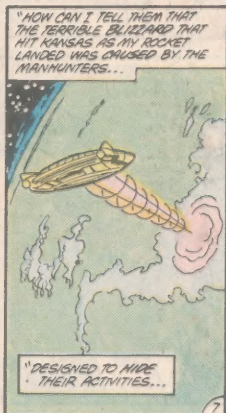
AND  
MORE...

PEOPLE.

SOME ALIVE...  
MORE DEAD.

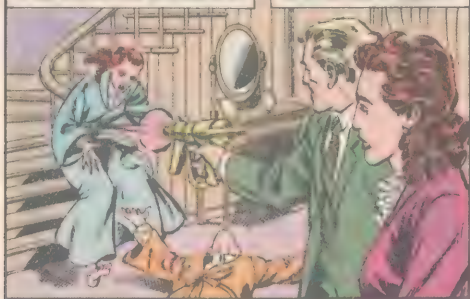
MEN, WOMEN,  
CHILDREN...

AND  
IN THEIR  
MIDST...



"THOSE ACTIVITIES INCLUDED THE MURDER AND REPLACEMENT OF OLD DOC WHITNEY AND HIS WIFE...

"...THUS PLACING THE PERFECT MANHUNTER AGENT IN SMALLVILLE'S BOSOM..."



"VIRTUALLY EVERY CHILD BORN IN SMALLVILLE FROM THEN ON WAS DELIVERED BY THE MANHUNTER DOUBLE OF WHITNEY.

"AND EVERY ONE WAS MODIFIED."



"EVEN MY CLOSEST FRIEND, LANA LANG, HAD BEEN CHANGED IN THIS FASHION."



"SHE BECAME A KIND OF SLEEPER AGENT, PERIODICALLY REPORTING TO HER MANHUNTER MASTERS."

"ONE BY ONE, OVER NEARLY THIRTY YEARS, SMALLVILLE BECAME A TOWN OF MANHUNTERS."



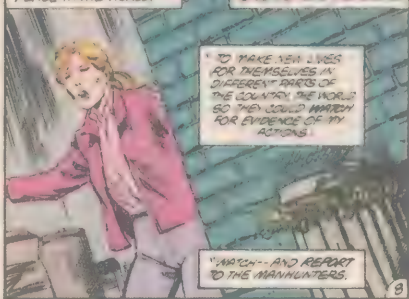
"AND NOT ONE OF THEM KNEW WHAT THEY WERE."

"THEY ALL GREW UP, AS LANA DID, AS NORMAL KANSAS TEENAGERS..."



"JUST AS I DID."

"UNTIL THE DAY I LEFT SMALLVILLE, TO TAKE MY PLACE IN THE WORLD."



"THEN LANA AND MANY OTHERS WERE COMPELLED TO LEAVE HOME BEHIND."

"TO MAKE NEW LIVES FOR THEMSELVES IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE COUNTRY, THE WORLD SO THEY COULD WATCH FOR EVIDENCE OF MY ACTIONS."

"WATCH-- AND REPORT TO THE MANHUNTERS."

8

(CONTINUED ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE)



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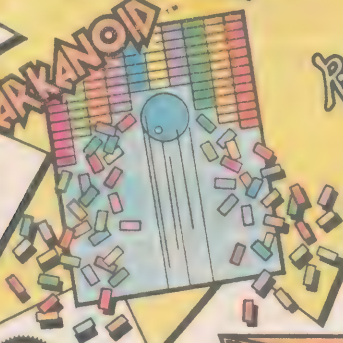
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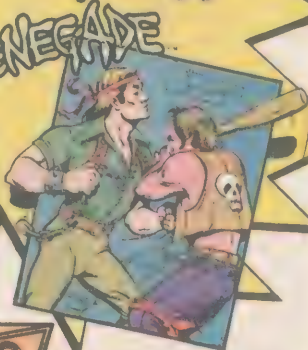
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# MILLENNIUM™

## CHECKLIST

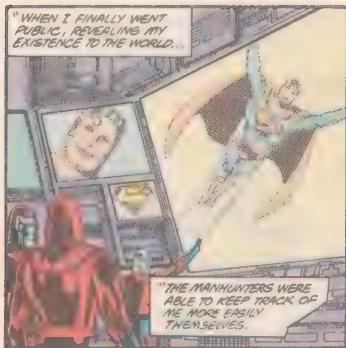
## CHECKLIST

| WEEK ONE<br>On Sale October 13<br>(January Cover Date)                                                            | WEEK TWO<br>On Sale October 13<br>(January Cover Date)                                                                           | WEEK THREE<br>On Sale October 13<br>(January Cover Date)                                                                  | WEEK FOUR<br>On Sale October 27<br>(January Cover Date)                                                                                   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Millennium #1</b><br>Firestorm #67<br>Flash #8<br>Justice League Int. #9<br>Outsiders #27<br>Wonder Woman #12  | <b>Millennium #2</b><br>Batman #415<br>Blue Beetle #20<br>Legion #42<br>Secret Origins #22<br>Superman #13<br>Young All-Stars #8 | <b>Millennium #3</b><br>Adventures of Superman #436<br>Booster Gold #24<br>Green Lantern Corps #220<br>Infinity, Inc. #46 | <b>Millennium #4</b><br>Teen Titans Spotlight #18<br>Action #596<br>Captain Atom #11<br>Detective #582<br>Suicide Squad #9<br>Spectre #10 |
| WEEK FIVE<br>On Sale November 3<br>(February Cover Date)                                                          | WEEK SIX<br>On Sale November 3<br>(February Cover Date)                                                                          | WEEK SEVEN<br>On Sale November 17<br>(February Cover Date)                                                                | WEEK EIGHT<br>On Sale November 24<br>(February Cover Date)                                                                                |
| <b>Millennium #5</b><br>Firestorm #68<br>Flash #9<br>Wonder Woman #13<br>Justice League Int. #10<br>Outsiders #28 | <b>Millennium #6</b><br>Superman #14<br>Blue Beetle #21<br>Legion #43<br>Secret Origins #23<br>Young All-Stars #9                | <b>Millennium #7</b><br>Adventures of Superman #437<br>Booster Gold #25<br>Green Lantern Corps #221<br>Infinity, Inc. #47 | <b>Millennium #8</b><br>Spectre #11<br>Teen Titans Spotlight #19                                                                          |

MILLENNIUM, read it first every week. After that, read ALL the crossover titles!



"WHEN I FINALLY WENT PUBLIC, REVEALING MY EXISTENCE TO THE WORLD..."



"THE MANHUNTERS WERE ABLE TO KEEP TRACK OF ME MORE EASILY THEMSELVES."

"ALL THE MANHUNTER AGENTS RETURNED TO THEIR SMALLVILLE HOME, ONE BY ONE."

"RETURNED TO NORMAL LIVES, NORMAL FAMILIES."

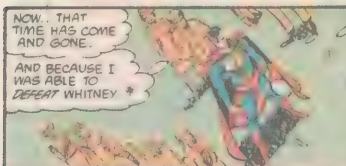
"NEVER GUESSING THE REAL REASON THEY'D LEFT."



"WAITING, WITHOUT KNOWING THEY WERE WAITING, FOR A DAY WHEN THEIR ROBOT OVERLORDS MIGHT NEED THEM."

NOW... THAT TIME HAS COME AND GONE.

AND BECAUSE I WAS ABLE TO DEFEAT WHITNEY \*



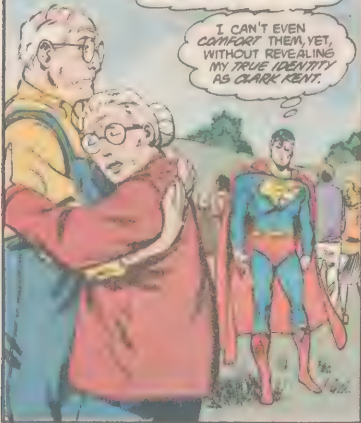
... EVERYONE BORN IN SMALLVILLE SINCE I ARRIVED HAS PAID THE ULTIMATE PRICE.

\*see Adventures of Superman #436.

AND AS HARD AS ALL THIS IS FOR ME, IT'S HARDER STILL FOR MA AND PA KENT.

THEY KNOW NOW THAT ALL THIS HAPPENED BECAUSE THEY GOT TO MY ROCKET BEFORE THE MANHUNTER AGENTS, BECAUSE THEY "CONTAMINATED" ME WITH HUMAN LOVE AND FEELING.

I CAN'T EVEN COMFORT THEM, YET, WITHOUT REVEALING MY TRUE IDENTITY AS CLARK KENT.



THIS MUST SURELY BE THE BLACKEST DAY OF MY LIFE...

DO NOT DESPAIR, SUPERMAN



WHO...  
THE  
SPECTRE!

YOU'RE TOO LATE  
TO BE OF HELP  
THIS TIME SPECTRE  
YOUR MISSION TO  
PREVENT KILLING  
AND PUNISH KILLERS  
DOESN'T APPLY  
HERE

NO? BECAUSE  
THESE POOR  
SOULS ARE  
ALREADY DEAD  
AND THEIR KILLER  
DESTROYED?

IT'S A  
GHOST!

IT'S THE  
ANGEL OF  
DEATH!!

THERE IS MORE  
TO MY POWERS  
THAN THIS  
SUPERMAN.

ON THIS DAY ESPECIALLY,  
I MAY YET FIND A  
PURPOSE HERE

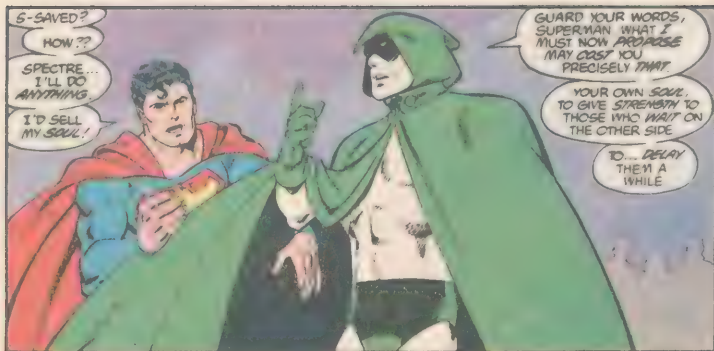
"THIS DAY...?"  
OF... OF COURSE,  
IT'S HALLOWE'EN  
I'D COMPLETELY  
FORGOTTEN

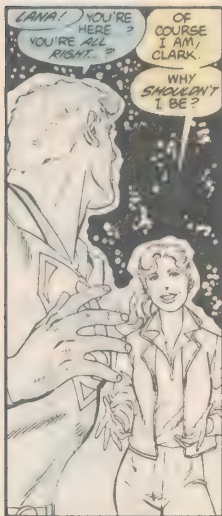
BUT... HOW CAN A DAY OF  
DRESSING UP AND PLAYING  
TRICK OR TREAT HAVE  
ANY BEARING ON ALL  
THIS, SPECTRE?

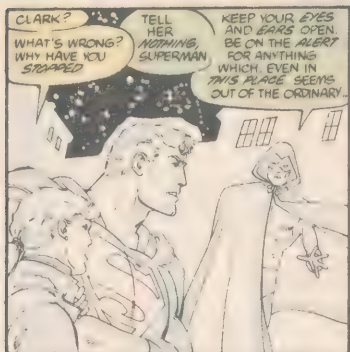
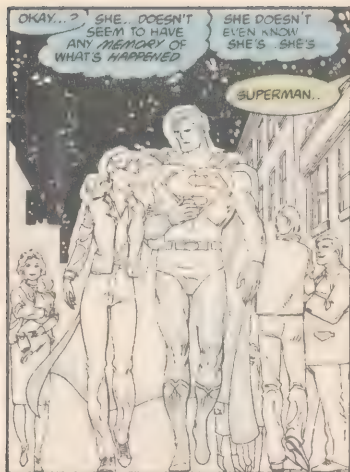
IT HAS  
EVERY  
BEARING,  
SUPERMAN

ALL HALLOWS  
EVE IS A TIME  
OF GREAT  
MOVEMENT  
IN THE SPIRIT  
WORLD

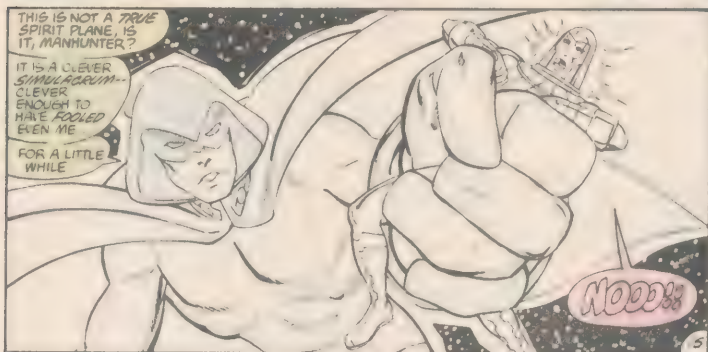
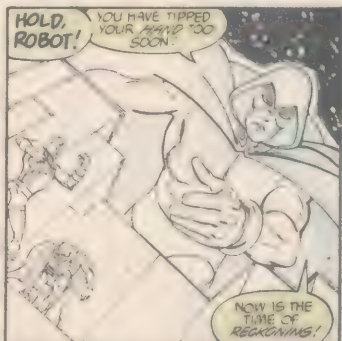
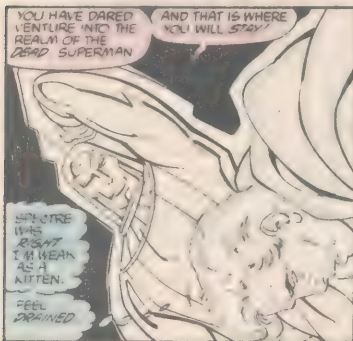
AND BECAUSE  
OF THAT, THESE  
SOULS MAY YET  
BE SAVED..









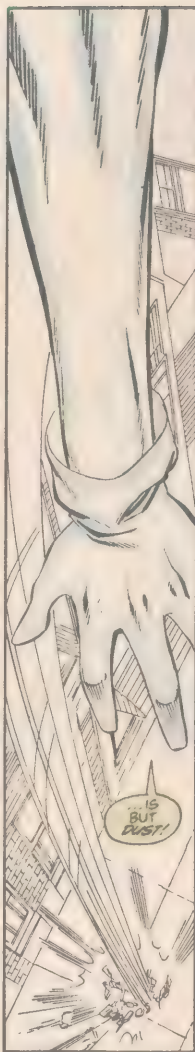




BUT NOW  
THAT TIME IS  
PAST,  
MAN-  
HUNTER.

NOW I  
KNOW THIS  
PLACE FOR  
WHAT IT  
TRULY IS...

I HAVE  
POWER HERE,  
MANHUNTER,  
AND YOUR  
BLACK  
SCHEME



...IS  
BUT  
DUST!



NOW, ROBOT,  
LEARN THE FULL  
SCOPE OF THE  
SPECTRE'S  
POWER.

AS I CAN  
ENTER AND  
ANIMATE THE  
UNLIVING...



SO I CAN  
POSSESS  
YOU!!

NOOO!!

# Happy 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday, SUPERMAN!



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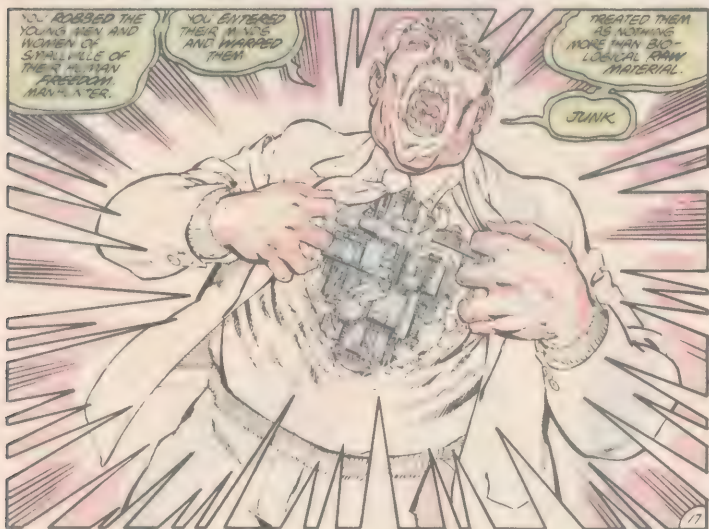
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ON TARGET EVERY MONTH

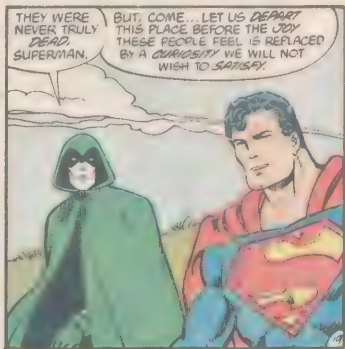
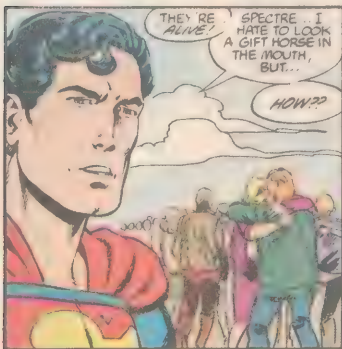
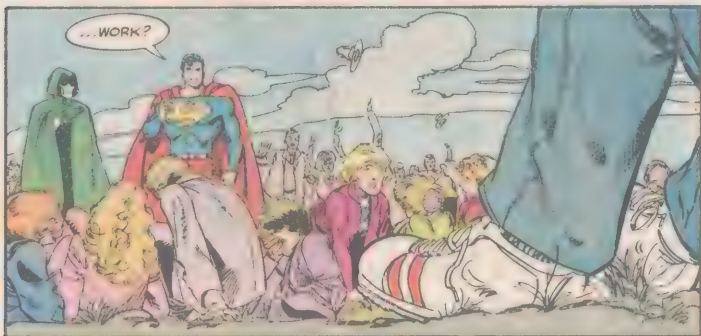
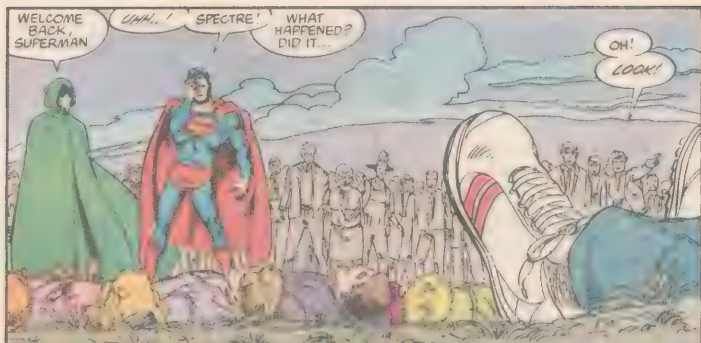
# GREEN ARROW

MIKE GRELL · ED HANNIGAN · DICK GIORDANO



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SAME FATE  
TO YOU!!!







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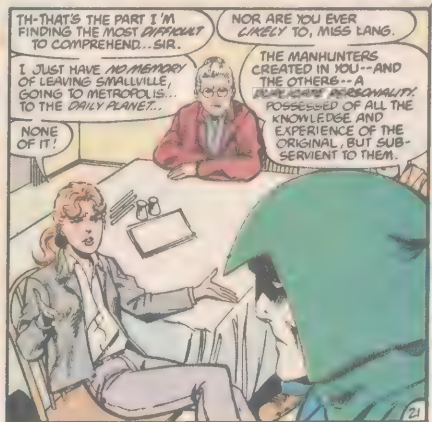
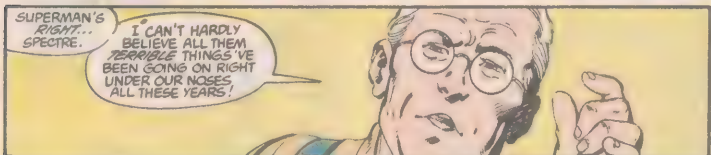
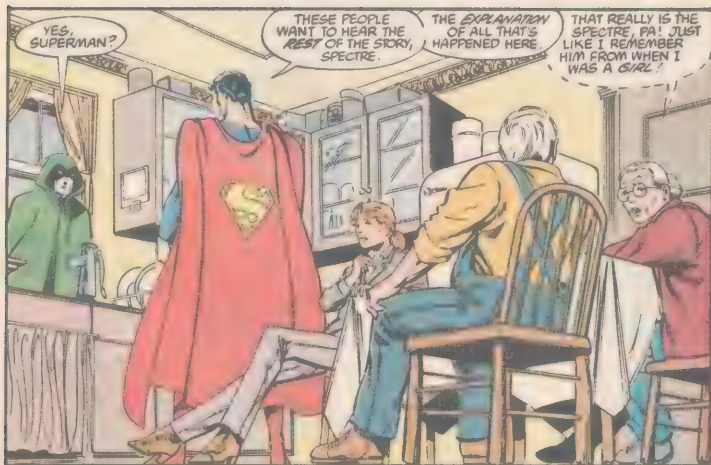
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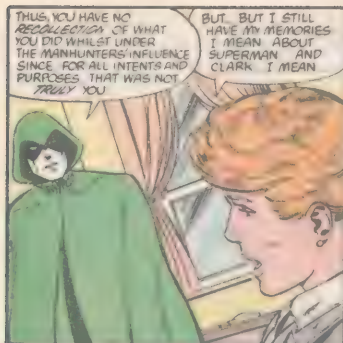
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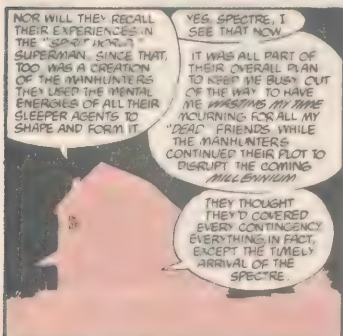
THUS, YOU HAVE NO RECOLLECTION OF WHAT YOU DID WHILST UNDER THE MANHUNTERS' INFLUENCE SINCE FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES, THAT WAS NOT TRULY YOU

BUT, BUT I STILL HAVE MY MEMORIES I MEAN ABOUT SUPERMAN AND CLARK I MEAN



NO NEED TO BE COY LANA THERE'S NO KEEPING SECRETS FROM SOMEONE LIKE THE SPECTRE. YOU REMEMBER MY DUAL IDENTITY BECAUSE YOU LEARNED OF IT WHILE YOU WERE OUTSIDE THE MANHUNTERS' CONTROL, WHILE YOU WERE STILL YOURSELF.

BUT THE OTHERS WILL HAVE NO SUCH MEMORIES. MY SECRET IS SAFE.

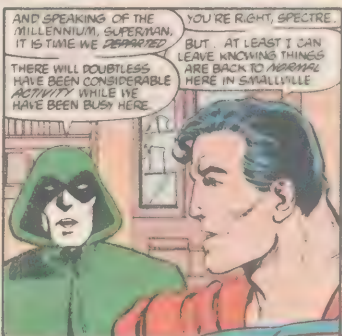


NOR WILL THEY RECALL THEIR EXPERIENCES IN THE "SPOTLIGHT" SUPERMAN. SINCE THAT, TOO, WAS A CREATION OF THE MANHUNTERS. THEY USED THE MENTAL ENERGIES OF ALL THEIR SLEEPER AGENTS TO SHAPE AND FORM IT.

YES, SPECTRE, I SEE THAT NOW

IT WAS ALL PART OF THEIR OVERALL PLAN TO KEEP ME BUSY OUT OF THE WAY TO HAVE ME WASTING MY TIME MOURNING FOR ALL MY "DEAD" FRIENDS WHILE THE MANHUNTERS CONTINUED THEIR PLOT TO DISRUPT THE COMING MILLENNIUM

THEY THOUGHT THEY'D COVERED EVERY CONTINGENCY. IN FACT, EXCEPT THE TIMELY ARRIVAL OF THE SPECTRE.



AND SPEAKING OF THE MILLENNIUM, SUPERMAN. IT IS TIME WE DEPARTED

YOU'RE RIGHT, SPECTRE.

BUT... AT LEAST I CAN LEAVE KNOWING THINGS ARE BACK TO NORMAL HERE IN SMALLVILLE

THERE WILL DOUBTLESS HAVE BEEN CONSIDERABLE ACTIVITY WHILE WE HAVE BEEN BUSY HERE.



SO LONG, SON.

I WILL, PA.

TAKE CARE OF LANA FOR ME

WE MUST HURRY SUPERMAN.

BE... CAREFUL

I SENSE GREAT TROUBLES AHEAD...

## NEXT:

OUR STORY CONTINUES IN **MILLENNIUM #5**, WITH A TALE THAT CARRIES **SUPERMAN** INTO **JUSTICE LEAGUE #10**, BACK TO **MILLENNIUM #6** AND ON TO **SUPERMAN #14**  
NEXT IN **ACTION COMICS #597**

**SUPERMAN** THINKS ALL IS SAFE IN SMALLVILLE, BUT HE'S BEEN WRONG BEFORE! FIND OUT FOR SURE IN **VISITOR** IN 30 DAYS... (22)

# REACTION COMICS

Let's set aside your comments on ACTION #592, since it was the first of a two-parter, and get to it next month along with its conclusion ACTION #593! Why, you ask—well, several months back we did a little thing called ACTION COMICS ANNUAL #1—and it went something like this....

Dear Michael,

The historic ACTION COMICS ANNUAL #1 (why has it taken so long?) featured a story worthy of the occasion by talents equally as worthy. And of course, the teaming of Superman and Batman was the only one you could have chosen. I thoroughly enjoyed "Skeeter" and I'd like to tell you why.

Firstly, this was one of a very few vampire stories I can honestly say I was affected by. I'm not confessing to being frightened by John Byrne's treatment of vampires, but the manner in which he showed the human aspect of this old horror cliché was excellent. Sure it was obvious that Skeeter was the "villain," even though I suspect that John wanted to raise doubts with the scene in the old shack on pages 7 and 8. The girl's seeming innocence made her transformation later on all the more shocking. The final battle between Superman and vampire was very well handled. The way that John showed that Superman is as vulnerable to magic as any other human was particularly appreciated by this long-time reader. That it was Batman who saved the day, and the fashion in which he did so, provided a thrilling climax to a gripping story. (Page 37 was highly reminiscent of Miller's DARK KNIGHT classic, the nearest I've seen anyone else come to it.) The dialogue between the two heroes which followed was perfect, further delineating the differences which keep these two from being friends.

As good as the story was, the art was even more satisfying. This was a different Art Adams, unlike the one I've seen in other comics. I still love his style, though. Whether the change here was due to the inks of Dick Giordano or Art's wish to emulate Frank Miller's treatment of the Dark Knight and the Man of Steel, or both, I don't know. All I know for sure is that the result was a beautiful 39 pages. It will be a pleasure to look at them again and again.

Dale Coe  
58, Whitecross Road  
Warrington  
Cheshire, WA5 1LR  
England

Dear Editor,

ACTION ANNUAL #1 was one of the best stories to arise this summer, and you all deserve a round of applause for your work.

I was never able to understand how Superman and Batman came to be such close friends over the years. To quote the old cliché, they're as different as night and day. MAN OF STEEL #3 showed them more as I always thought they should be... they'll work together for the cause of good, but beyond that they really don't understand each other's methods and ideals. When I discovered that ACTION ANNUAL #1 featured the Dark Knight, I was afraid it would ruin the whole thing and the two would become close.

Of course, I was wrong. The two didn't even work together in this story. They each did their own thing, their own way, until their paths crossed. And as soon as it was over, they parted. This is truly the way it was meant to be. Superman: "I... owe you my life!" Batman: "Yes, I suppose you do." No chummy buddies. No off the wall jokes. Not even a "Good luck." Just business. Thanks for one of the most memorable stories in years.

By the way, I thought the artwork was superb. Dick Giordano seems to be everywhere these days, for which I'm thankful. But what about Art Adams? Is he up to anything else this year? He did a fantastic job.

I just hope that there aren't too many Superman/Batman team-ups in the future. The two are the best at what they do, but they do different things. Please don't overdo it, so that each team-up will be something special, to be remembered for a very long time.

Shelby C. Pankratz  
7830 Prism Ct.  
Colorado Springs, CO

You might have seen Art's work depicting the summertime adventures of a little green boy and his orange horse around the same time you picked up the ACTION ANNUAL. Shelby... but if you haven't, get thee to a comic shop, now! And tell 'em Mikey sent ya! (Just don't tell Dick Mikey sent ya!) And next year be on the look out for Art's work with JUSTICE LEAGUE INTERNATIONAL's Keith Giffen on a project that will most definitely not be a drag, man (though it will rhyme with that!)

Dear Sirs:

Well, you certainly pulled me in on that one! Count me as one of those who were sure it was Superman arriving in

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Feyerville. Then, to add insult to injury, I was also positive that Skeeter was a poor innocent. After all, there aren't really any such things as vampires, are there?

Of all the annuals I have read this year (18 so far) ACTION ANNUAL #1 ranks right at the top. Thanks to John Byrne for bringing out the fact that it is possible to survive in quicksand. I read that in a science book for children years ago, and ever since have wondered if anyone else had.

The only real problem I had with the story was the mummification of Skeeter's folks. That's usually what happens in very dry climates, as wet climates tend to aid decay. Could it be that this was tied into their vampirism?

Again, congratulations to the gang on a superb work of art. Keep it going!

D.K. Bickford  
3312 Corbin Way  
Sacramento, CA 95827

About Skeeter's mummy and daddy, D... Vampirism! Yeah, that's it! It was tied right in there with that vampirism! Yessiree, Bob—that's exactly why they up and dried out like that! Thanks for reminding us, buddy.

NEXT ISSUE: Hold it! Before we tell you about the next issue, we've gotta tell you all about: SUPERMAN #14, where Superman teams-up with Hal Jordan of the galaxy-famous Green Lantern Corps! Yes, we know that SUPERMAN's not normally a team-up book, but—heck, the MILLENNIUM's upon us! And Superman and Green Lantern must defeat the Manhunters' GrandMaster before ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #437 comes out! Because that's where Superman and Lex Luthor are going to be trying to convince one of the Chosen that it's great and crummy (respectively) to be a human! Then, and only then, is it safe for you to be here in ACTION COMICS #597—where Lois Lane and Lana Lang will team-up for the first time, and compare their notes on Superman and Clark Kent! See you all then, bye!

—Mike Carlin

P.S. It is understood that you're all supposed to go out and somehow get a look at any and all issues of MILLENNIUM that come out next month, right? I mean, you don't have to read MILLENNIUM to understand the SUPERMAN books next month (or vice versa) but it won't hurt you none either to be totally informed (first one on your block and all that!) Bye, again!

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